

Application Serial No.: 09/850,206
Filing Date: May 7, 2001
Docket No.: 1100-113
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Remarks/Arguments:

As required by the Examiner, enclosed please find 21 sheets of formal drawings, including Figures 1-26.

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 remain pending in this application. Further, claim 1 has been amended without adding new matter. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objections:

The specification and drawings have been objected to by the Examiner. The Examiner states that “preload window”, page 12, is not shown in Figures 17, 17A nor is it clearly discussed in the specification.

The enclosed formal drawings for Fig 17, and 17a, now clearly show the “preload window” as reference numeral 217. Additionally, the “preload window 217” is clearly defined on page 12, lines 16-22 of the specification. Therefore, the Applicant’s believe it is not necessary to further show or describe any such operation.

No new matter has been introduced with respect to 35 U.S.C. §132.

Claim Objections

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Claims 7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 has been deleted and the limitations of claim 7 have been included in the amended independent claim 1.

Additionally, with reference to claim 6, the Examiner asserts that the contact free end within the housing must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim. The contact free end, 314C is now shown in Fig. 21 and the structure of the contact and manner in which its end is within the housing is clearly described on page 13, lines 15-17.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8-12, and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,142,790) in view of Anhalt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,815,077), Burton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,738,625), Lok (U.S. Patent No. 6,027,381) and Matsuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,287,151 B1).

The Examiner has also rejected claim 6 as being unpatentable over Niitsu in view of Anhault et al., Burton et al., Lok, Matsuzaki et al., and Kihira.

As stated above, claim 7 has been amended to add the limitations of the objected claim 1, which has been canceled. Thus, this rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom is deemed obviated.

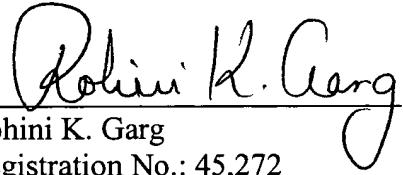
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Conclusion:

In view of the amendment and remarks above, Applicants deem this application, including claims 1-6 and 8-20, is in condition for allowance and solicits such action. In the event that any issues remain following entry of this amendment, Applicants' agent respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number given below for either a personal or telephone interview if the Examiner believes that such would expedite the prosecution of this application.

No fee is believed to be required. However, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment in these fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0776.

Respectfully submitted,


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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing include changes to Fig.21.

The sheet which includes Fig. 21-25 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 21-25.

In Fig.21, reference numeral 314c has been included to show the contact free end. The support for the contact free end 314c is described on page 13, lines15-17.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

20/21

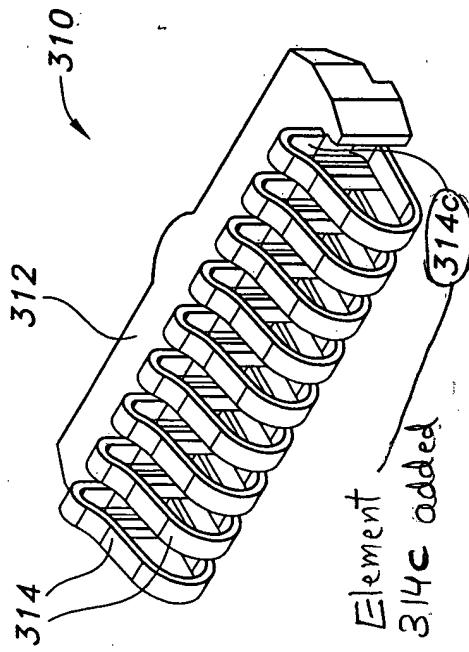


FIG. 24

FIG. 21

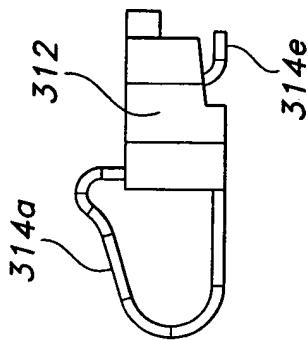


FIG. 22

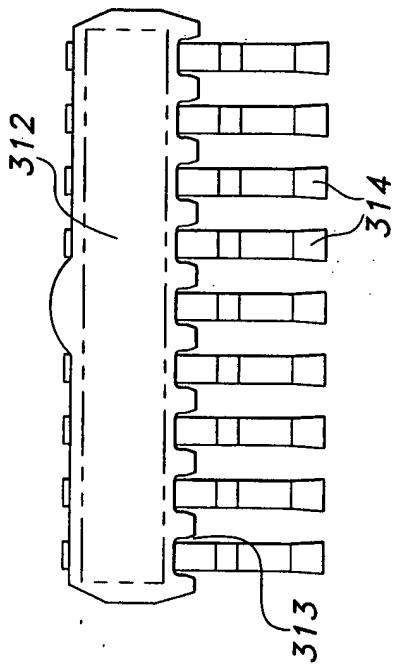


FIG. 23

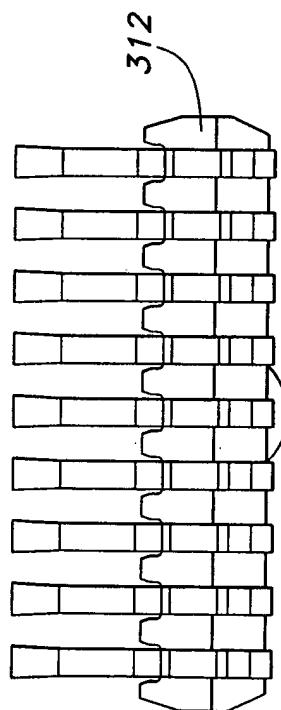


FIG. 25